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P.50

EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney,NSW 2000 Phone: 617089 September 7

COMMUNIQUE FROM MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR

In accordance with the May 4,1977 resolution of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of Fretilin , the second plenary meeting of the External Front of the Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor --FRETILIN -- and of the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor , was held in the city of Maputo , capital of the People's Republic of Mozambique ,from August 24, 1977 to September 1, 1977 , presided over by the National Political Commisar, Minister of State for Political Affairs, Plenipotentiary,Mari Bin Hamud Alkatiri.

Present in the meeting were the Political Commissar and Minister of State for Economic and Social Affairs, Abilio de Araujo ; the Commander-General of Falintil and Minister for National Defence, Rogerio Lobato ; the Secretary of the Department of External Relations and Minister for External Relations,Jose Ramos-Horta ; the Permanent Representative of Fretilin in the People's Republic of Mozambique and Ambassador of FRET, Roque Rodrigues ; the Permanent Representative of Fretilin in the People's Republic of Angola and Charge d'Affaires Jose Maria Sarmento ,and Fretilin Representative for Europe,Leonel de Andrade.

Some sessions of this Plenary Meeting were attended by rank-and-file Fretilin militants currently residing in the People's Republic of Mozambique,fulfilling their tasks.

In the course of the Plenary Meeting,several subjects were profoundly debated, namely :

a) The evolution of the political-military situation in East Timor, its repercussions in the national, regional and international context,and its implications in the diplomatic front ;

b) Problems of revolutionary discipline ;

c) Cabinet reshuffle.

In considering the latter, it was unanimously decided to greet the Cabinet reshuffle, in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Political Committee of the Central Committee of Fretilin, as follows :

-- Mari Bin Hamud Alkatiri is entrusted with the portfolio of Secretary of the Department of External Relations of the Government of DRET,ceasing his functions as National Political Commissar and Minister of State for Political Affairs ;

--- Abilio de Araujo is entrusted with the functions of roving Ambassador, ceasing his functions as a Political Commissar of Fretilin and of Minister of State for Economic and Social Affairs ;

--- Roberio Lobato is entrusted with the functions of Minister Adviser to the Minister of External Relations with the category of Commander,ceasing his functions as the Commander-General of Falintil and of Minister of National Defence of DRET ;

--- Jose Ramos-Horta is entrusted with the functions of Fretilin Representative

to the United Nations and Ambassador of DRET, ceasing his functions as a Secretary of the Department of External Relations and of the Minister of External Relations of DRET.

For publication.
Done on the 5th. of September 1977

Signed : Mari Alkatiri
Member of the Central Committee of Fretilin,
Minister of External Relations of the Democratic Republic of East Timor
Plenipotentiary

Jose Ramos-Horta added the following note to the Communique : W" The meaning of this reshuffle is the strengthening of the leadership structure inside the country," when it was sent to ETNA.

NEWS FROM RADIO MAUBERE September 5, 1977

SUAI : From August 1 to 5, Fretilin forces in special duties killed 40 Indonesian soldiers and wounded a lot. Fretilin forces suffered no casualties.

FOHOREM -FATULULIK : the impotent enemy have used aerial bombardment on those villages, destroying several houses and killing several children

ATSABE : From August 1 to 10, fierce fighting took place and nine Indonesian soldiers and lots of traitors were killed by Fretilin revolutionary forces. In revenge, the enemy executed 20 captured population and strongly bombarded with mortar fire Fretilin positions.

BOBONARO: I"formation received says that the Indonesians have sent the strong ones of the captured population to Irian Jaya and many of them have already in the fighting in Irian Jaya.The enemy is still recruiting more captured males to go Irian Jaya.

ZUMULAI : On August 24, two aircraft strongly bombed the village and destroyed several houses, killing two women and lots of kids.

BAUCAU: August 28, with three behicles the enemy tried to advance to Loilobu and (??? names inaudible) .However,Fretilin revolutionary forced killed 16 Indonesian soldiers and wounded a lot, and repelled the enemy and Fretilin suffered no casualties.

BOBONARO:From Bobonaro we have received the following information : most impotent enemy is trying a new tactic ,by launching massive (?) offensives to take the high points to put heavy artillery to support deep raids the large Fretilin controlled areas.Indonesian troops are concentrating along the border in Indonesian territory.Indonesian troops are preparing to use chemical bombs over agriculture fields. The population in the Indonesian concentration camps in Suai, Bobonaro, Maliana,and Atsabe and inside Indonesian border, have been moved to the eastern zone.

(NOTE: RADIO MAUBERE ON SEPTEMBER 4 CLAIMED THAT "POISONOUS POWDER" WAS BE DROPPED BY INDONESIAN AIRCRAFT ON AGRICULTURAL FIELDS IN LIBERATED AREAS TO DESTROY CROPS).

TL6602
P.52

EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: 617089 September 17,1977

FULL TEXT OF SPEECH OF NICOLAU LOBATO, READING STATEMENT OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF FRETILIN CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON THE HIGH TREASON OF XAVIER DO AMARAL, OVER RADIO MAUBERE SEPTEMBER 14,1977

NOTE: The following is a draft translation of the speech given in Portuguese by Prime Minister Nicolau Lobato over Radio Maubere on September 14,1977, on behalf of the Permanent Committee of the Fretilin Central Committee. The speech was delivered in Portuguese.
East Timor News Agency stresses that this is a first draft translation, but believes that mistakes in translation are minimal. Due to interference, some parts could not be transcribed. Those parts that were inaudible are marked thus : (--------). Where words could be heard but we are not certain of the spelling or if we are absolutely correct in the word, the word is indicated with (?) after it.

We have produced this first draft for limited circulation to allow all major subscribers to obtain in full detail the contents of the speech. A full, carefully checked translation will be produced as soon as possible.

TEXT OF SPEECH

The people of East Timor lived for more than 400 years under the domination and exploitation of the Portuguese colonialists. Throughout this period in its history, the people always fought for its freedom, self-determination and independence. The Central Committee of Fretilin is the vanguard of the revolution, built up and forged by the East Timorese people in its ceaseless fight.

The Fretilin Central Committee leads our people in the continuing struggle for liberation. It is for this reason that the imperialists,its lackeys are trying to undermine in any way the unity of Fretilin Central Committee, to cause confusion in its ranks , and thus weaken the struggle for the noble cause of liberation of our people.

In this way, the imperialists and their lackeys tried to sabotage our organisation, and to achieve this, infiltrated , seduced and recruited ,even in our ranks, dangerous agents. It is therefore necessary to alert all the nation,all the country, all the people, the armed forces, all the patriots of East Timor about the danger that threatens us at any moment as always,. We therefore must redouble our revolutionary vigilance, reinforce our revolutionary consciousness, through a conscious revolutionary practice, so that we may always be on guard, and reinforce bit by bit against all enemy blows. We consider that in the present conjuncture, it is particularly grave for the nation, because our young State was in imminent danger of being taken over by a group of saboteurs, capitulationists, and traitors of the homeland, loyal slaves of the Javanese expansionists, who are the lackeys of imperialism, and so it is very urgent to take rapid and efficient political measures, with determination and without hesitation, to neutralise the [illegible] corrosive, destructive actions of the saboteurs, capitulationists and traitors of the homeland., installed in the highest positions of the Front and State apparatus,because the salvation of the homeland demands this,/as does the imperatives of the great cause of the liberation of our people, which we are all seriously

and totally devoted to, because it is our sacred duty to defend at all costs the line drawn up in the Political Programme of Fretilin.

This political line has been clarified during these two years of armed struggle, a political line that was improved, more robust, following the decisions of the last and historic meeting of the Supreme Council of Struggle and Political Committee of Fretilin Central Committee held in Lalibe (or Lalime ?) , because only this line/is the sure guarantee of the good conduct of our struggle and the triumph of our just and noble cause.

It is therefore the duty of the Permament Committee of Fretilin Central Committee to inform all the patriots of East Timor , the armed forces, all cadres, civilian and military, all the devoted militants of Fretilin, all our beloved and heroic people of East Timor , of the vilest act , most shameful manouvre, most horrendous crime ever ,anywhere else practiced , by a son of our people that has chitved our revolutionary Front, our young State ,our greatly beloved Maubere people, over greatly loved Homeland , East Timor.

Francisco Xavier do Amaral is the vilest traitor, that our Historyhas known. Vnested with the highest powers in the supreme leadership of the Front and of the State apparatus, he used these powers and his influence to traitorously try to take our people to capitulation, to surrender to the enemy. In close links with the enemy Francisco Xavier do Amaral did not have the least scrúples to commit these monstrous crimes in the service of imperialism , under the cover of the carrying out of the most sacred tasks .

Francisco Xavier do Amaral betrayed the tears of mothers crying for their sacrified sons, who died on the battlefield ; betrayed the homes destroyed by the war ; betrayed sons who lost their parents ; Francisco Xavier do Amaral betrayed the husbands who lost their wives in defence of the Homeland ; betrayed the wifes who lost their husbands in the national resistance struggle ; Francisco Xavier do Amaral betrayed the sincere and combattive revolutionaries of East Timor who abandoned everything for the sublime cause of the liberation of our people. He betrayed all the comrades who had confidence in him ; betrayed all our brothers, arrested and jailed in the filthy prisons of the oppressors in Dili and in the mountains, who suffer , are ill treated, humiliated in all possible ways , tortured, maryred during these two years of invisible suffering and incredible methods of torture , simple patriots, very devoted militants, but all more and more clearlyconscious , all firm in the determination to fight for the liberation of the Homeland of their birthplace , all unshakeable in their decision to always fight with head held high, never to betray, all ready to make the supreme sacrifice,to give their own lives in the service of the Homeland and the people.

Francisco Xavier do Amaral betrayed all the combattants, who fell on the battlefield in the sacred mission of defending national sovereignty, Francisco Xavier do Amaral betrayed the blood, heroically spilt, in defence of the integrity of the sacred soil of our beloved Homeland, East Timor.

Francisco Xavier do Amaral vilely betrayed the blood of some many other combattants, of all patriots, generously spilt for the total and complete liberation of our greatly beloved and heroic Maubere people, who are fighting for the construction of a new society, free from all forms of domination and exploitation of man by man.

For the crime high treason to the Homeland, to the heroic people of East Timor , to the blood generously spilt and to our revolutionary Front, Francisco

Xavier do Amaral is self-dismissed, from all positions and functions that he exercised in our State and Supreme leadership of the Front. Francisco Xavier do Amaral is the vilest traitor of our Homeland.

Because of his crime of high treason to the Homeland, Francisco Xavier do Amaral is expelled from Fretilin, dismissed from all his positions, and from the exercise of all his political rights in accordance with the terms of the law, and has been arrested since the 7th September 1977 and will be judged by a competent tribunal.

Also have been arrested various elements of some cadres of some zones, who were later seriously interrogated by a Commission of Inquiry nominated by the Department of Information and National Security. We thus obstained various confessions which we have studied. They have provided irrefutable proof that Francisco Xavier do Amaral is a traitor.

Basing ourselves on these statements, dragged out of the prisoners, who have been interrogated, we have finally obtained irrefutable evidence.

Preoccupied with a concern for objectivity in this inquiry, the Commission interviewed various persons, of various categories, both sexes, various ages, in different parts of the country, at different times. All made statements that coincided in the essentials. Xavier do Amaral is a capitulationist, a traitor, and Francisco Xavier do Amaral is the moral and material author of the deviation and treason of various cadres and elements, who were transformed into agents, in different parts of the country, working under his orders, at the service of the enemy.

The traitor Francisco Xavier do Amaral misled into treason members of the Fretilin Central Committee, such as Mario Bonifacio do Rego, former secretary of the Manatuto Regional Committee, who under orders from and in close co-operation with Xavier do Amaral, carried out intense counter-revolutionary work to take the people of the region to surrender. He also misled to treason members of Fretilin Central Committee such as Diogo Moniz da Silva, whom Xavier told to abandon thousands of the people in the Lakular zone, when the enemy entered that locality in the middle of last year.

He also mislead to treason such medium rank civilian and military cadres as Laclo zone secretary, Jose Vicente, and vice-secretary of the same zone, Antonio Gil; the Laklubar zone secretary, Alfonso do Rego; the Remexio zone secretary and deupty secretary, Ananias da Silva and Tobias Mendonca; and so on, and dozens of lower-level cadres as well as simple elements of the people in different parts of the country, and certainly others, whom the continuing work of the Commission of Inquiry will disoover in the more-or-less near future.

According to the statements gathered, Francisco Xavier do Amaral committed various crimes, under cover of his authority and influence, including the physical elimination of Commander Leonardo Alves of the Ramalada Special Combat Unit in Funar (Manatuto area --ETNA). This was done under Xavier's initiative in close co-operation with the traitor Diogo Moniz da Silva.

Francisco Xavier do Amaral prepared a counter-revolutionary coup to overthrow Fretilin Central Committee through the physical elimination of the

Revolutionary Government of the

Vice President of Fretilin and Prime Minister of/the Democratic Republic of East Timor, Nicolau dos Reis Lobato ; the Acting National Political Commissioner and Minister for Justice Mau-Lear ; Secretary of the Department of Information and National Security, Minister Alarico Jorge Fernandes ; Commander of the Centre-North Sector , Mau-Kiar (?) ; and the other Fretilin Central Committee members of the Centre-North sector , as well as other Fretilin Central Committee members of the Centre-South Sector, namely the present Deputy Commanders Leri and Somosse (?) . Concerning the other Fretilin Central Committee members in the Centre-South sector and in the remaining sectors of the country , we have not so far got details.

To perpetrate his Machiavellian scheme, he forged a racist theory ,attributing the cause of the war to the mesticos. He created and fomented divisionism among Commands , among the rank-and-file, among different zones, among the different ethnic groups , to prevent the organisation of the people and forces. He protected and fomented obscurantism, through lulics (traditional animist religious objects --ETNA) and other superstitious practices and which he pretended to believe to manipulate the people.

He protected and fomented feudalism, protecting the traditional institutions such as the rajahs, regulardos, barliques,*servitude and other manifestations of the feudal past, trying to gain his former influence that had been discredited by his incorrect practice throughout the struggle , doing this behind the backs of the people , with an apparent cover of incredible cynicism. He developed a strong campaign to discredit all members of the Central Committee who contested his ideological line and his conduct.

He protected all the meglomaniacs and feudalists, seducing and using them as his battle-horses.

These are some of the many statements made against Francisco Xavier do Amaral . But we did not limit ourselves to these statements gathered, while we believe in the objectivity of such statements. For Fretilin, the practice is the criterion of the truth. And in fact, the practice of the traitor Francisco Xavier do Amaral is not in contradiction with these statements gathered, but on the contrary, the facts, some episodes in his life , his activities only corroborate and confirm these statements.

His practice since the first day of the invasion show him as a man full of hesitations, scared, and a tendency to capitulationism.

On the mid-morning of December 7, 1975, while soldiers of Falintil , together with other amry people of the superior level, were heroically facing the Indonesian paratroopers and marines in the city, he was stopped in Baribar on the way to Dili, by the secretary of the Department of Public Works and Communications, and Minister Eduardo dos Anjos, . Questioned by him, Xavier do Amaral said: " I am going to Dili to ask the Javanese why they were invading our homeland." An ingenuous excuse for the truth !

More or less after a month, already in Turiscai and Maubisse, he contacted separately, Fretilin Vice-President and the Army Chief of Staff of Falintil, asking them to ask the United Nations to hold a referendum of self-determination, as the ideal formula to resolve the conflict. This viewpoint was

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* traditional arranged marriages

P56

categgrically rejected by both of them, as incbherent the position taken by the Fretilin Central Committee when it proclaimed the unilateral independence of the Democratic State of East Timor on November 28,1975.

Once safe in the mountains, encircled by all the care and attention the people could give to him, very quickly Francisco Xavier do Amaral changed all previous worries for a rapid solution of the struggle, to a very strange and even incredible lack of interest in the struggle. He was beginning already to capitulate.

Objectively, we can say that Francisco Xavier do Amaral began to capitulate and think about treason in June 1976 ,when after abandoning the historic Soibada meeting , with the excuse of the National Celebration of May 20, when he ordered a big concentration of the masses in his feudal fief of Turiscai, where various delegations from other parts of the country were called, on his orders,

It is curious to note that in those delegations were elements such as the traitors Jose Vicente of Lacb, Miguel from Barike, various cadres of Ilimano who were manipulated and implicated in the plot, Ananias of Remexio, and others already arrested and under our control.

Next he took his offensive to the eastern extremity of the country, going to the Centre-East Sector, where he was stopped by the sector authorities because the enemy was advancing on Quelicai . But he still strongly insisted in going towards Ponta-Est (Eastern Point --ETNA) Sector. In this trip to the east, there are indications that he contacted in Laleia zone, the traitors Joao Branco and Adoa Cristovao, whotwere going Eastern Point Sector where the former was to assume the responsibility of Sector Commander and the latter was going to "liberate " his captured family in Lospalos village. This last episode has not yet been confirmed.

From then on, Francisco Xavier do Amaral was practically completely disinterested in the problems of the struggle and tacitly declined all responsibilities for the conduct of the struggle and these responsibilities fell on the other Fretilin Central Committee members.

Thus , he never attempted to call a Fretilin Central Committee meeting , to define the practical strategy and principles and organisational methods.

In fact, he abandoned the historic meeting of Soibada held from May 20 to June 2 1976 , after only attending three days of its work, with the excuse of attenting the festivities he had organised in Turiscai well before. Despite being twice asked to be present by pptitions signed by all members of Fretilin Central Committee, he refused to participate in the meeting of the Supreme Council of the Struggle of the Political Committee of Fretilin Central Committee held from March 8 to May 20 , 1977 in Lalibe (or Lalime ?) , under the very doubtful pretext that he had a cold and an allergy in the foot.

But in fact it was not like that. While the very intense work of the Supreme Council of Struggle of the Political Committee was proceeding, the traitor Francisco Xavier do Amaral was planning behind the scenes to make the final arrangements for his counter-revolutionary coup that was set for the month of August , but which was postponed for early September -- this month. Meanwhile, because of the opportune intervention of the Department of Information and

National Security, which had been for a long time following the movements of the traitor Francisco Xavier do Amaral , in the beginnings of August were neutralised and arrested his advanced pawns. It was this that forced the delay of the planned counter-revolutionary coup.

The work of the traitor Xavier do Amaral were limited to the following : visits to festivities with big noise and big banquets ; long voyages in cavalcade with the noise of numerous guards and opportunists and camp followers, authentic parásites who lived off the people everywhere; big colonial-style dances lasting all night and sometimes for a whole week . As a camouflage , he spoke to the people , full of demagogy and populism.

The traitor Francisco Xavier do Amaral is polygomous. In all the sucos (villages --ETNA) , in his feudal fiefs through which he passed, he had women at his disposal,to spend the night in the style of the colonial administrators , or of the big and small fuedal lords . Women and sex became really an obsession with Xavier do Amaral. According to a statement of a bi-bere (woman comrade --ETNA) , pursued by Xavier do Amaral, he told her that his major problem was not the war but sex.

The Fretilin Central Committee , attentive and disproving of these anomolies , through its Political Committee, nominated a delegation presided by Fretilin Vice-President to meet with him and criticise this incorrect practice as well as to help him solve , according to the spirit of Fretilin of solidarity and good comradeship, his matrimonial problem. Cynically, he agreed with this delegation, with the viewpoint presented, but later immediately radicalised his previous/backward position and said one thing and did another.

The traitor Francisco Xavier do Amaral is feudalist. His feudal fiefs were Turiscai-Rainero(?)- Remexio-Lekidoe- Manatuto and part of Maubisse.

Only the conditions imposed by the war prevented him from extending his domination to the surrounding areas. In those feudal fiefs , he installed his relatives and friends in positions of authority, so that he could securely control and be sure of his influence and boycott effectively our organisation. Lately, he was trying to enlarge his influence to Alas, Fatu Berliu and Same, but without success. This information is based on that coming from the places he visited ,because he was followed attentively and all was registered by the Department of Information and National Security .

Feudalism is incompatible with the raising of revolutionary consciousness of the cadres and masses. So, to secure his feudal domination ,traitor Xavier do Amaral forged a curious opportunist theory which separated the civilian tasks from the military tasks which he said were incompatible. He identified the civilian tasks as political tasks and the military tasks as apolitical. Thus, for him, the slogan "Put Politics in Command", meant that a political bureau made by civilians has to be in command and in the ascendancy over the zone command formed by the military. The zone political bureaux would be sorts of mini- Central Committees. This theory can be explained by his interest in giving power to zone secretaries who he had chosen from among his friends and relatives,to whom he distributed these feudal posts.

P58

On the other hand, it was easier for him to seduce and bring under control the secretaries than the military people for obvious reasons.

On the one side, he did not control the armed forces in the different zones and so it was important for him to keep the army people away from political tasks, and so more easily manipulate them through the secretaries in his feudal fiefs. In fact, the combattants in these fiefs are marked by the very low level of their political awareness.

Also can be explained that even commanders when cleverly seduced and worked on, became authentic servants to carrying without question the orders for assassinations from Xavier do Amaral. This false theory was opportunely opposed in a very heated polemic by comrades of Fretilin Central Committee, by the other theory that we considered to be the correct one.

Between a civilian and a soldier ,no wall exists. The soldier and the civilian are together, easily in practice , a civilian can become a soldier and a soldier , a civilian. The civilian tasks as well as the military tasks, are all political tasks. They both serve the struggle of the people, The civilians and the soldiers must work together in co-operation and not separation, without any spirit of contradiction without opposition. The slogan "Put Politics in Command" does not mean in any way to put the civilians above the soldiers. The slogan "Put Politics in Command" can only mean that all our acts must be oriented and directed to reach a political objective. All our acts must have a set political content. All our acts must be drawn up by rules borne from our revolutionary practice, in accord with our principles and political methods of action.

The Zone Political Bureau is not a sort of mini-Central Committee, like little heads leading the people in the zone. And Zavier do Amaral was wrongly defending this. For the people of East Timor only one vanguard exists : the Fretilin Central Committee -- as in a person's body there is only one head, The oppounrtist and monstrous theory of Xavier do Amaral was aimed at boycotting the democratic centralism that is a fundamental principle in whole organisation and on which our politics are based.

The theory of mini-Central Committees, as put forward by Xavier do Amaral is opportunist and monstrous -- like a body with a normal head and a lot of little heads all over it. His feudal conservatism reveals itself in his protection of feudal institutions, like the rajahs, sucos, povocoes (administrative divisions under Portuguese colonialism -- ETNA) , administration of justice according to obsolete methods, recourse to use of corporal punishment, trials by Councils of Elders, his support for the feudal relations of parenthood, balaques (arranged marriages), and other forms of superstition and so on. To secure his influence in his dominions, he tried and managed to seduce and recruit co-religionnaires (those who followed his religion --ETNA) among opportunists, whom he made heads of sucos and povocoes .These people came from the factionalism of the former kings (traditional claimants to traditional chiefdoms whose ancestors had been replaced by the Portuguese -- there are many such conflicting claims -- ETNA) . These chiefs ,together with the secretaries, some commanders and the major part of the other authorities are among his more loyal followers, who are agents of the lackeys.

This is an authentic feudal authority under the sovereignty and dominance of Francisco Xavier do Amaral .The feudal conservatism of the traitor Xavier do Amaral is absolutely incredible. Xavier do Amaral is extremely able in the art of palace intrigue ; in wielding the knife and assassination through the hands of his agents, in setting up ambushes, in maintaenance of feudal fiefs, all through the hands of his feudal lackeys, seduced and bribed with rich favours, who exist throughout the various parts of the country.

Xavier do Amaral is the biggest saboteur of our organisation; the biggest reactionary infiltrated in our ranks ; the chief of the counter-revolutionaries in our midst. He did not follow the resolution made in the May 1976 meeting, saying that the organisational work must come after the war. He boycotted production in the Centre-North and Centre-South Sectors against the resolutions of the Permanent Committee of the Fretilin Central Committee of September 20,1976, stealing arbitrarily grain seed being sent to these Sectors .He also took many comrades from the work of production, to have an excessive accumulation of military men, and disorganised soldiers, who were put unprepared in the frontline around Turiscai and Maubisse. He boycotted the organisation, modernisation and political, military and technical training of Falintil, saying " in the war it is a time to make war, and not the right time to train Falintil."

For Xavier do Amaral, the sending of unprepared combattants to the frontline, to fight, did not give him any major worry in his conscience. He never,objectively, was worried with the safety and lives of the combattants. When in suco Liurai ,the Fretilin Central Committee members were not happy with their lives of fixed residence, and sent Xavier a concrete proposal of organising political, military and technical training in Turiscai, Xavier do Amaral, greatly irritated, negated this request.

Using authoritarian methods, he imposed his incorrect viewpoint, which was incorrect and unrevolutionary, that : " Preparation of Falintil should have been done in time of peace, because in time of war there is no place for it. Now, we have only to fight anyhow." The result of this came very quickly, as when the enemy just passed through Turiscai, as on a tour, in the direction of Same. It was as though the traitor Xavier do Amaral wanted a lot of the population to be captured, demoralisation, of the people and the forces. Only the fantastic patriotism of the people of Turiscai prevented a big disaster of a total surrender by the masses.

He boycotted the debates and work of the Central Committee for clarification and reinforcement of the ideological unity and line with the Central Committee and Front. Refusing to go to such meetings, forcing the other members to wait for long time , which was prejudicial to their tasks .

The few times he participated it was always to create more confusion instead of clarification, with his ambiguous, contradictory and obtuse speeches.

He sabotaged and boycotted the work of the members of the Fretilin Central Committee , present assistants Somosse (?) and Leri, taking from them all their authority , in favour of his own relatives, limiting their initiatives, putting them under house arrest in the suco Liurai.

P.60.

Boycotting the work of the Vice President and Prime Minister which they had together for a period of five months , in an attempt to safeguard the Front's unity, as well as the work he had with the Acting National Political Commissar, and the Centre-South Political Commissar, who also had very close contact with him.

Opposing by his arbitary counter-orders and pretentious authoritarianism he caused very grave contradictions which threatened the unity inside the Central Committee and even bigger confusion among the rank-and-file.

Francisco Xavier do Amaral has ordered traitorously the assassination, behind the scenes, of the famous Falintil combattant, Commander Leonardo Alves, from the Ramalada Special Combat Unit, in Funar. There is serious suspicion that Xavier do Amaral is also responsible for the death of the Commander, Luis Soroc (?) of the Bucafiuic(?) Special Combat Unit also in Funar and also of the Commander Jose Berlele (?) in Soibada zone, and of other combattants killed in Laklubar zone, and of other combattants who "mysteriously" disappeared inside his feudal fiefs of Turiscai and Maubisse. It must be noted that all these heroic comrades had very serious disagreements with the feudal bosses of Turiscai, relatives of the traitor Xavier do Amaral.

The Vice-President and Prime Minister , the National Political Commissioner, the Secretary of the Department of Information and National Security, other members of Fretilin Central Committee such as Sector Commander Mau-Diac (?) , Artur, Leonel, Lai (?), Redentor and so on and even other medium- and lower-level cadres -- all had a price on their head by order for assassination by Xavier do Amaral.

Particularly, relating to the Secretary of the Department of Information and National Security ,Minister Alarico Jorge Fernandes, there occurred in fact an attempte of physical elimination on August 7, 1977, by the traitor Domingoes Simoes (?) .The traitor Francisco Xavier do Amaral, is an agent of the enemy.

Aiming to create holes in our lines, he ordered the withdrawal from between the zones or localities such as between Ilimano and Laclo, Barike and Laclo, Maubisse and Turiscai, between Turiscai and Laklubar, between Turiscai and Soibada and so on, to create favourable conditions for the infiltration and work of the enemy. He managed to re-instigate regionalism, in Turiscai zone against the other parts of the country, spreading through the mouths of his relatives and feudal bosses, the wrong theory that Turiscai was the fount of politics in East Timor, that Turiscai was the vanguard of the people of East Timor, against the correct thesis that Fretilin Central Committee is the true, unique vanguard of the Maubere people, the true and unique guide ,uncontested, of our people, the true and unique legitimate representative and most profound faithful interpreter of the aspirations of the people of East Timor.

He tried to create divisionism among the Fretilin Central Committee members, in the superior army cadres, as when, for example, he held a secret meeting with the medium-superior rank commanders of Corte-Negra (?) and tempted them to disobey the direction of Commissariat. This meeting was held in the absence of the Sector Political Commissioner and Commander who had gone to have a meeting with the Vice-President and Prime Minister in mid-December 1976.

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In his/attempts to weaken and to break our military resistance, he started to use his authority to concentrate and immobilise in his fuedal fiefs of Turiscai and in other feudal fiefs such as Caimaco (?), and other localities, weapons and ammunition ,gathered by different means -- from requisitions, to stealing them, threats, disarmament, beatings and even ambushes executed very cleverly his loyal lackeys.

In order to keep the political, consciousness of the masses at a very low level, and so to more easily manipulate the people, he spread, throughout his feudal fief,the strange theory that in time of war there was no time to make politics. In this way he encouraged and also prevented that the cadres talk to the masses, as happened everywhere else, and as was set out in the habitual resolutions of Fretilin Central Committee .

The traitor Francisco Xavier do Amaral, maintained links with the enemy through Laklubar, Maubisse and even Dili. Other connections with the enemy were made indirectly through the advanced pawns spread out through different parts of the country. Some of his agents had credentials signed by himself, to cross the frontlines and circulate freely (in the Indonesian-controlled areas --ETNA). This movement was very limited, when the Commissionariat of the Centre-North Sector started to control directly the entry and exit through the frontlines.

There is a good understanding between the enemy, and the traitor Xavier do Amaral.

It is not by chance that the enemy has presented Xavier do Amaral as sitting in a corner, as not concerned with the struggle, and for over a year ,the Radio Dili of the Javanese invaders has spread the story that there is a serious confrontation between the forces of Xavier do Amaral and those of Vice-President and Prime Minister and the Minister for Information and National Security.

There was some truth in all this.

It is not by chance that the Minister of Defence of Indonesia, the lackey Pangabbean, announced that Indonesia was going to launch a new offensive in East Timor to "mop up" the rest of Fretilin.

It is not by chance that the traitor Xavier do Amaral boycotted the work of a strategy of a prolonged struggle drawn up by the Superior Council of Struggle (----------)

It is not by chance that the capitulationist traitor Francisco Xavier do Amaral started and sustained a very sharp polemic with the Minister for Information and National Security, Alarico Jorge Fernandes, because he rejected the erroneous orders given by Xavier not to attack any further over the National Radio of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, imperialism and its lackeys. The Minister of Information and National Security rejected totally to obey to such an infamous order, explaining to him very clearly that imperialism was our major enemy. The Minister showed how strange this order was, and that the then President of Fretilin and of the Democratic Republic of East Timor did not know that ,already in this phase of our struggle, that the principal enemy of the people is imperialism.

Francisco Xavier do Amaral gave codes to the enemy through which the Javanese invaders later discovered various of our tactical measures. Francisco Xavier do

Amaral maintained one of his agents , infiltrated in the Department of Information and National Security, (----------) arrested.

There is no doubt we must recognise that the C.I.A. carried a good work of sabotage in the struggle of East Timor which is led by Fretilin Central Committee . It even subverted the Presidency of the Fretilin Central Committee.

The Fretilin Central Committee and the East Timorese people are not afraid to admit and has the good sense to do so , that in imperialism it faces an enemy deserving great respect, and which must be treated with respect.

The traitor Francisco Xavier do Amaral and his gang caused enormous, immeasurable damage to the East Timorese people by working for the enemy. But strategically , Fretilin Central Committee and the East Timorese people despise imperialism and we say with conviction that the C.I.A. is a paper tiger. And we have proved that in practice because the traitor Xavier do Amaral and his gang have been neutralised, arrested and are under our control.

We will regain all our lost work. We will regain all our lost efforts. We will find a way to remedy the enormous delay provoked by Xavier do Amaral and his gang of opportunists, perverted thiefs, perverted feudal bosses, saboteurs, capitulationists and traitors of the Homeland.

With the dismantling of traitor Xavier do Amaral's net of traitors, the people of East Timor will work with more courage, so that the political line of Fretilin can be even more clarified, even more firm, more uncompomised,against the traitors and enemies of the Homeland, the Political Line of Fretilin will win because, for all of us, the Politica is in command, and because the political situation of Fretilin from now on is different, the political, military, economic, cultural and social fields will improve necessarily day by day.

Imperialism and its lackeys will suffer from now on more blows, bigger and deeper each time, Imperialism and its lackeys, Javanese expansionism, will be finally defeated and smashed and convinced of this revolutionary truth : our victory is certain ; our victory is a question of time.

So ,it is a very suitable time to draw lessons from this profound crisis that has shaken our Nation, hit our people , threatened our young State and undermined the unity of the Front.

It was at the Preliminary meeting of the Permanent Committe of Fretilin Central Committee in March 1976 in Fatu Berliu that was preparatory to the historic meeting of the Fretilin Central Committee of May 1976, at Soibada, that the Department of Information and National Security started to follow very closely the tracks of Xavier do Amaral. Because at that meeting , the candidates proposed by Xavier do Amaral were rejected as members of the Fretilin Central Committee , Xavier do Amaral said that we should not be surprised if ,any day, (----------) and one of the candidates nominated by him was precisely the former Remexio Zone secretary, Ananias da Silva, a traitor already under our control in a safe place.

Because of the ceaseless fight imperialism and its lackeys impose on us, we recommend from now on, the stringent redoubling of revolutionary vigilance and to achieve that we must reinforce ourselves.Against the mistakes of comrades, we use the weapon of criticism. Against the enemies, traitors and sellers of the Homeland, we use the criticism of weapons. To do that we must

strengthen the repressive apparatus, of our State, the Police, theTribunals, and Armed Forces. This is the first lesson.

We must have maximum caution in accepting those who want to enter our organisation because they can be saboteurs, counter-revolutionaries and so will be candidates for treason. This is the second lesson.

All of those who by their practice show conservative and feudal tendencies are reactionaries and as such will finally capitulate and betray. This is the third lesson.

All of those who are undisciplined , perverted, will not manage the rigours of war and with the continuation of the struggle will end up capitulating and betraying. This is the fourth lesson.

All those who are meglomaniacs , authoritarians, collaborationists, detractors of other comrades and opportunists will degenerate into enemies of the people. This is the fifth lesson.

All those who accept tacitly in their functions they exercise that they do not have confidence in the struggle is based on the power of the masses will end up by aligning themselves with the colonialists. This is the sixth lesson.

All cadres who refuse to study and take part in the meetings will end up capitulating and betraying. This is the seventh lesson.

Politics must be everywhere and always in command. This means that the choice of the leading cadres must obey political criterion. And this means that all the cadres (----------). That is the eighth lesson.

Practice is the criterion of the truth. We must not trust nice words, nice intentions of people, but we should learn about people through their practice. The practice of our revolutionary vigilance means attentive observation and critical analysis of the practice of all of those around us. Practice is the most important thing in our ideological line and our revolutionary vigilance. This is the ninth lesson.

Another big lesson we must never forget.

It is necessary to trust the people. Who does not trust the people, will finally capitulate and betray. It is not the big personalities, who make history as the traitor Xavier do Amaral could not succeed with his demagogy, It is the people, the masses who make history. It is necessary to have confidence in the Central Committee of Fretilin.

Some Central Committee members degenerated and betrayed. But the people, who make history, develops within itself through the struggle, authentic revolutionaries who will occupy the highest levels. Fretilin Central Committee is an historic and necessary product of centuries of struggle of our people , so Fretilin Central Committee as a bloc remains as solid as a rock, without a crack. Fretilin Central Committee now still more united ,stronger in this profound crisis that hit us in our midst, The dismantling of the network of counter-revolutionaries can only be explained by this, and only in this way can we dismantle other attempts by imperialism . This is an advance in our struggle, that we have done this.

To have confidence in themasses, to have confidence in the creative power of our people, and to have confidence in its wise and brave vanguard, Fretilin Central Committee, is the touchstone we must always be guided by, always and everywhere.

The Permanent Committee of the Fretilin Central Committee vehemently appeals to all patriots of East Timor, to the armed forces, to the heroic Maubere people, to unite around and with the Fretilin Central Committee, the heroic guide of our people, so that all together with head high, serene and calm, courageously we can confront this big challenge that imperialism and its lackey have thrown up to us, with the certainty that the victory is certain.

on behalf

The Permanent Committee/of Fretilin Central Committee, wise and heroic guide of the Maubere people, loyal with all its energy to the revolutionary mass line, expresses its infinite confidence in the unbreakable unity and infinite capacity of the historic role of the Maubere people and pledges to the people the most resolute and profound guarantee that by its revolutionary practice it will always fight to lead the people in the struggle and never to betray the supreme goal of liberation of our Homeland and of our people and through the construction of a new society , free from all forms of exploitation of man by man .

It is the duty of the Permanent Committee of Fretilin Central Committee to inform
(----------)

With the dismantling of the capitulationist network of the traitor Francisco Xavier do Amaral and his gang , the horizon is bright with a new light rising , full of hope and revolutionary optimism for the Maubere people. The new and major clarification of the political of the mass revolutionary political line of Fretilin is the light which illuminates East Timor. Through this new light, the masses of East Timor will ,remove all obstacles and will win and defeat all its enemies who are desperately trying to stop the big mass of our people on the road to its own liberation. Decisively confident in the unity and the infinite creative power of the masses of East Timor, united and guided by the heroic Fretilin Central Committee , co rect,wise , fearless, firm and unshakeable guide of our people, we will going to win.

Down with dangerous imperialism !
Down with senile Javanese expansionism !
Down with backward feudalism!
The struggle continues !
To defeat is to win !
Reaction will never pass!
Death to those who sell out their homeland !
Fire to the traitors !
Homeland or Death !
The Victory is Certain !
Viva the wise and heroic Fretilin Central Committee !
Viva the Democratic Republic of East Timor !
Viva the glorious Falintil !
Viva the heroic Maubere people !

September 14, 1977
Signed: on behalf of the Permanent Committee by Nicolau dos Reis Lobato

TL6602
P.65

EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St.,Sydney NSW 2000 September 28, 1977

WEST TIMORESE FLEES TO FRETILIN-HELD AREAS

The following communique wasx read in English over Radio Maubere on September 23,1977 .It is reproduced as read, with comments by ETNA in brackets :

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR
FRETILIN - DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY

The war in East Timor also awakes the brother people of West Timor . West Timor is also another Javanese colony. The revolution of the Maubere people, heroically on march in East Timor is strongly sounding in West Timor.

In the last month, one Indonesian element has escaped from the Javanese concentration campa at Atambua (1) to Fretilin-controlled areas near Bobonaro(2) whose identification we do not reveal for security reasons. He has reported that all over West Timor the civilian population are highly unsatisfied and living under a terrible climate of terror imposed by Javanese colonial troops.

Many people in Atambua have already been arrested ,punished and tortured in Javanese special concentration camps from (which) he has escaped and is still showing along the body recent marks of beating and burning inflicted by the Javanese colonial troops.

He has also reported that the situation of East Timor is grandly discussed in West Timor. Finally, he has reassured that sooner or later the people of West Timor will be free from Javanese colonial domination.

Independence of Death. To Annihilate is to win. Armed struggle is still on. Long Live internationalist militancy

23/9/77
Signed: Alarico Jorge Fernandes, Minister for Information and National Security

(1) Atambua is in West Timor near northern border of East Timor
(2) Bobonaro is in East Timor, near West Timor border.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR
FRETILIN -- DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY

MESSAGE TO AUSTRALIAN WORKERS ACROSS AUSTRALIA

It was (has been ?) two years that the heroic Maubere people, wisely led by their fearless and intrepid vanguard -- the glorious Fretilin Central Committee-- are carrying out the armed struggle for their true liberation,for the liberation of their country from the strangers' aggression yoke .The most frightful puppets of the imperialists, the common enemy of all the oppressed people,of the working class all over the world, and of all forces lovers of peace and progress.

Around this time, the people of East Timor have learned to distinguish their friends from their enemies and to differentiate their true friends and allies from their false friends. These are not all the agents of the enemy infiltrated in our revolutionary ranks.

the ardorous (1) speakers supported by the imperialists in order to boycott, sabotage, mediate and to (under)mine the combattive solidarity among the people, soldiarity among the people, at last, to suffocate the normal and just struggle of the oppressed people against the colonialists, neo-colonialists and imperialists, in defence of the integrity of the country and the national independence.

It is in the fighting and consequently through the practice that we should correctly make such distinctions and separate the good friends from the bad ones, and it's been told by our beloved and martyred peopl of East Timor.

Imperialists count with the national and international power to suffocate the struggle of the working class of the entire world, more and more intense oppression. However, also the people determined to fight, always find firm support from certain friends and allies which are highly numerous and in constant growing.

The people of East Timor highly appreciate the effective support given by the Australian workers to their struggle against the Javanese colonialists, as well as the building of these support will easily draw more and more strengthening the militant solidarity and already increasing between the two people -- the people of East Timor and the Australian people.

Independence or death. To annihilate is to win. Armed struggle is continuing. Long live the militant solidarity. The victory is certain.

24/9/77

Signed: Alarico Jorge Fernandes ,Minister for Information and National Security.

Notes: (1) This is derived from a Portuguese word, meaning "very fluent". This communique was read by Mr Fernandes over Radio Maubere on September 25, in English. The text is produced as read, with comments by ETNA added in brackets.

MINISTER MARI ALKATIRI MEETS WITH MOZAMBICAN PRESIDENT SOMORA MACHEL AND GUINE-BISSAU PRESIDENT LUIS CABRAL

Minister for External Relations in the Democratic Republic of East Timor, Mari Alkatiri met President Samora Moises Machel of the Peoples Republic of Mozambique, in Maputo on September 24, 1977 in a very cordial and highly fraternal discussion that lasted two hours. Also present were Military Adviser Rogerio Lobato, and DRET Ambassador to Mozambique, Roque Rodrigues, and Mozambican Minister of State of the Presidency, Oscar Monteiro. President Machel reaffirmed personal and official unconditional and total support and revolutionary solidarity from FRELIMO and the P.R. of Mozambique to the Revolutionary Government of DRET and Fretilin.

Mari Alkatiri on September 23, held an important press conference in Maputo attended by Mozambican Government officials and representatives in Maputo including those from the USSR, PR of China, Cuba, Vietnam, Korea , other socialist countries, and s some West European countries. The press conference was broadcast in full over Angola's Radio Luanda.

On September 25, Minister Alkatiri met with President of the Republic of Guine-Bissau, Luis Cabral, in a very fruitful and fraternal meeting , in the Angolan capital of Luanda. Minister Alkatiri was invited to the next PAIGC Congress in November . Minister Alkatiri also met with Angolan External Relations Minister Paulo Jorge, and will meet President Agostinho Neto shortly. The President of Benin, Col. Mathieu Kerekou also sent a message of solidarity and support with the DRET.

TL6602
P.67

EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St., Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: 617089 September 28

PRESS RELEASE

NEWS AND COMMUNIQUES ON RADIO MAUBERE SEPTEMBER 23 and 25

Radio Maubere news September 23

LIKICA: On September 17, the enemy has massively advanced massively over one Fretilin position, supported by bombardment from a warship. The enemy occupied that position, but Fretilin later that day counter-attacked and fierce fighting went on all day. In the evening the enemy withdrew to VATO-VOU mountain, where bloody fighting went on. There, Fretilin eliminated 80 Indonesian soldiers and wounded a lot. Meanwhile, very intense fighting is still going on.

BAZARTETE: On September 20, the enemy advanced over one Fretilin position. After fierce fighting the enemy was repelled to its former position. Fretilin revolutionary forces have killed 10 Indonesian soldiers. Fretilin forces suffered no casualties.

DILI: The situation in Dili is deteriorating more and more. Its highly discouraging, the shortage of medical supplies, starvation and climate of terror imposed by the Javanese colonial troops on the pacific population. It's still (imposing) very bad treatment and acute tortures of all kinds. Recently the enemy have indiscriminately and materially affected a high number of the civilian population, who after suffering brutalities were exiled to Atauro Island.

Radio Maubere news, September 25.

LIKICA: 80 enemy were killed, and enemy fled away to Maubara lagoon, where they were bombarded by Fretilin mortars. Fretilin suffered four dead and six wounded.

BOBONARO: September 22 -- enemy launched a strong new offensive over one Fretilin position supported by heavy artillery. The glorious Falintil are heroically resisting and fierce fighting is going on.

SOIBADA : The enemy is hiding in Soibada village. Supplies can only be got to them by air, thanks to the action of Fretilin forces. So, on September 13 and 17 the enemy has dropped four lots of supplies by parachute. On September 17, Fretilin forces killed two Indonesian soldiers and wounded three. Fretilin forces didn't suffer any casualties.

COMMUNIQUE TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR FOR CIRCULATION AROUND THE WORLD

Democratic Republic of East Timor
FRETILIN- Department of Information and National Security

A new wave of Indonesian offensives on East Timor is about(taking place?). Against the heroic armed struggle of the Maubere people, all the enemy pathetic attempts to suffocate our struggle for national liberation and building the new society have always failed. For this reason the enemy is concentrating

a high number of Indonesian troops along the border line,particularly in Maliana ,Atapupu and Atambua (1) in order to launch a new,stronger offensive over Fretilin large controlled areas.Besides, the enemy is using Batugade (1) as a military training cnetre for the selected captured population and for those ones in West Timor forced to it.

It's simply ridiculous , the statement of the puppet Paggabean(2) about the mobilisation of 16 battalions to East Timor to crush just only 200 Fretilin remaining forces still resisting in the mountains.

The people of East Timor are politically and militarily prepared to face s hard and long term struggle and materialising in practice the strategy decided by the Higher Council of Struggle of Fretilin Central Committee -- the historic meeting held in Lalini (between March and May 1977 --ETNA).

In this way,in the battlefield, we have already brought success,such as the special annihilation inflicted by Fretilin revolutionary forces to the enemy on September 11,1977 in Matabean Mountain (near Quelicai --ETNA), which details are the following :

On September 11, the enemy made an offensive over Fretilin positions in Matabean Mountain with an effective of eight companies being three of tehm Red Berets.Fretilin forces have counter-attacked and annihilated over 200 Indonesian soldiers , being 150 confirmed (killed --ETNA) and wounded a lot. of them. The rest have been withdrawn to their former positions.

Fretilin forces have captured from the enemy the following war materials: ten machine guns of Belgian brand ; 10 automatic rifles ; eight M15 automatic rifles of American make ; two mortars of 60 mm.; one automatic rifle Kashilokov ; one automatic rifle 7.7 mm ; three compasses; two binoculars ; a lot of ammunition of several calibres; a lot of hand grenades and several war equipment.

Finally, Fretilin forces have captured four Indonesian military elements, being three sergeants and one corporal. Unfortunately, one of the three sergeants didd shortly after due to the injuries. Fretilin forces have suffered eight dead. This Indonesian offensive was commanded by Marine Lt- Colonel mamed Soar Soisu.

September 23, 1977

Signed : Alarico Jorge Fernandes, Minister for Information and National Security.

NOTE: (1) Maliana and Batugade are in East Timor, a few miles from the border.Atambua and Atapupu are a few miles on the West Timor side of the border.
(2) Indonesian Defence Minister.

THIS COMMUNIQUE IS REPRODUCED AS READ OVER RADIO MAUBERE ON SEPTEMBER 23. Corrections and comments in brackets by ETNA.

TL6602
P.69

VANUAAKU SOLIDARITY FUND
c/- Campaign for Independent East Timor,
fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St., Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: 617089 September 29, 1977

NEW CRISIS POINT APPROACHES IN NEW HEBRIDES (VANUAAKU)
VANUAAKU PATI SERVES ULTIMATUM TO BRITISH AND FRENCH

On September 17, the Vanuaaku Pati sent an urgent communique to the British and French Resident Commissioners (the French and British Government representatives , asking for a reply by October 1 on five demands . If these demands are not met, the Vanuaaku Pati will boycott the elections proposed for next November, refuse to recognise any government formed from such an Assembly," not consider the Government of Britain and France as the guardian(s) of justice and peace over the people of Vanuaaku".

The communique, signed by Vanuaaku Pati Secretary-General Barak Sope on behalf of the Seventh Congress of the Pati held on Pentecost Island late August, added: " The people of Vanuaaku cannot wait. Because human freedom is a right of life, we, the people of Vanuaaku, cannot wait for the Anglo-French Condominium to 'give' Independence. The people of Vanuaaku must create their own freedom to attain independence in a way understood and supported by the people."

The five points of the communique included the following demands :

1) "Only native of Vanuaaku be made eligible to vote in the next important national elections for the new Assembly" This would be a logical extension of one man,one vote principle and would allow the legal definition of "a sovereign status for the people of Vanuaaku." This demand was put forward on April 25,1977,but was ignored.The two colonial regimes propose that anyone with three years residence be able to vote ,which would include most expatriate French,British and Australian planters or officials.

2) 18 year olds should be eligible to vote.This was also put forward in April, but ignored by the two colonial regimes, on the excuse that there would not be time to enrol them by November (this was said in July).

3) The principle that the majority party in the elections have the right to form the Government and Cabinet after the elections .This was defied by the two colonial regimes which insist on a "broad coalition" Cabinet, forcing the Vanuaaku Pati to accept reactionary pro-French groups,even if the V.P. win an overwhelming majority. The two colonial regime cynically said that such a coalition government would be following the "Pacific way" of doing things !

4) The "transfer (of) appropriate government powers and responsibilities to the next national legislature which will place Vanuaaku at the stage of self-government". The two colonial regimes,while accepting "self-government" in principle, want to limit the powers transferred to such an extent as to make "self-government" meaningless.

5) A referendum to give the people the chance to vote "yes" or "no" to independence before the end of 1977. The two colonial regimes in July after the Paris Constitutional Talks (Boycotted by the VP) proposed a referendum on independence only in 1980. The VP since its foundation has set 1977 as the date for independence.

The deadline for an answer is very close as we write, and almost certainly the response will be negative on almost all points.

The two main reactionary formations, the TAN Union and the Federation of Independents, knowing they would be resoundingly defeated in any election have urged the colonial powers and their followers not to rush the present electoral preparations (registration of voters and dealing out voters' cards) merely to hold elections in 1977.

The VP ,which won 60% of votes in the December 1975 elections, is not threatening to boycott the elections because they fear not winning a majority. On the contrary, they are confident of winning more than 60% of votes this time, and of winning an absolute majority of seats. Their five points are put forward because the VP Congress has refused to tail along behind the neo-colonial plans of the French colonialists (whom the VP see as the provocateurs) and the British (who are servile accomplices). To accept a paper "self-government" at the end of 1977 and a possible independence in 1980, would have allowed the French and the planters to manipulate, frustrate and attempt to tame the legitimate aspirations of the Vanuaakuans for a real independence, as opposed to the neo-colonial "independence" the two colonial governments want to foist on Vanuaaku.

The Vanuaaku Pati can be expected to step up their boycott of the colonial administrations, in villages and towns, and begin to move to a de facto independence .

Because of the danger of the elections being postponed, given the attitude of the Tan Union and Federation of Independents, the VP also proposed that the present Provisional Council, formed after the VP boycotted earlier this year the undemocratic Representative Assembly (in which,although the VP won 60% of votes, they did not have a majority), should have its powers extended. The Provisional Council, four of whose seven members are VP nominees, should have its powers extended to give it "supreme legislative and executive powers in agreed areas of government", to make advice in remaining areas given by the Council binding on Britain and France ,and that all matters be decided by simple majority.

The danger remains that the French planters and colonial officials will hatch some adventure to stop Vanuaaku advancing on the road to independence. There has been explicit and frequent reference both in the official French newspaper NABANGA and in the newssheets of the reactionary parties to possible "Mayottisation" of Vanuaaku.This refers to French Government manipulations in the Indian Ocean Comores Islands, where one island,Mayotte , was set up as a French colony when the rest were given (under pressure) independence. Other French elements have spoken of "liberating" Vanuaaku if a"dictatorship" (majority rule!) threatened...

We strongly urge all supporters of the right of peoples to national independence to become active in support of the people of Vanuaaku. Those of us who have been active for many years in support of East Timor, recall the tragic situation that occurred when apathy and ignorance prevented a sufficiently strong movement being built internationally to stop the invasion by Suharto's troops. We don't want the same situation to occur here --where apathy and ignorance can a brutal suppression of the Vanuaaku people by the French Government or their puppets in New Hebrides. A regular monthly newspaper covering events in Vanuaaku (and to a lesser extent,New Caledonia) will begin publication next month. We will be sending you the first copy as a sample, and urge you to subscribe....